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THANKSGIVING

FOR

VICTORY, PEACE, AND OUR COUNTRY SAVED.

A PROCLAMATION

BY CHARLES ANDERSON, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OHIO.

Yet another year has passed over our State, and Nation! And the people of Ohio, in accordance with a usage of our dead fathers, older than the State itself, have been once again invoked, by a joint resolution of their General Assembly, to unite in a public acknowledgment, as well of the existence, power, and goodness of God, as of His interposing hand in all the works, ways and relations of men.

And, now, upon a full consideration of all the religious truths connected with this venerable custom, and with a lively remembrance of all the events of that past year, what ought this whole people to feel and to utter, at their family re-unions, in the greetings of friends and neighbors, and around the altars of the Most High? Can it be possible, that any people ever before could have had such causes as ourselves, for thankfulness and praises to God? If the annually recurring seasons of the regular year and the varying climates of our globe, with all their goodly fruits and health and other countless comforts and delights, have ever been and shall always be, severally and in their due succession, fittest causes for grateful homage to that benign Heart and bounteous Hand, from which they ever flow, what can we feel,—what shall we say,—of our debt of gratitude for His works and mercies in this, the most memorable of all the years? All those natural and general blessings we have fully shared with others. But, a great nation, desperately imperiled, has been grandly saved. And that nation was—is—ours! Surely, surely, if ever a State and Nation in all history, had more than fittest and fullest cause to give thanks unto the Lord for His wondrous benefits and forbearances, very surely are they these of ours, here and now! For, whereas, at our former festivals, we were at war, we are now in peace; we were divided, we are one; we were poor and weak, we are rich and strong; we were pitied, or despised, by all the nations of the earth, and are we not envied and honored among and above them all? Then, Slavery, like a vast pall of night-shade, blackened our whole bright sky and degraded and disgraced all our fair land. Now, Liberty, like a new risen sun, with healing in his beams, shines and glows, under all our heavens, upon our whole earth and into every

Let us then, fellow-citizens, each and all—all and each one of us—"Give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever;" "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises to His name." Nor, (let casuists and doubters deny as they may), shall these, our songs, be a vain thing; for, if we may not, by our prayers and praises, bend the Divine will and love to us, surely we can raise ours towards Him.

Now, therefore, I, Charles Anderson, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby appoint the last Thursday, being the 30th day of the present month of November, as a day of general Thanksgiving and Praise to that God of Love, who has so loved and blessed this land and people. And I do, furthermore, most respectfully, but earnestly, request all the people of this State, who love their country and their God, upon that day to lay aside all their customary cares and vocations; to gather their scattered children around the brightened hearths and the cheerful boards of their olden family homes; to render thanks there, and in the public temples, to the Heavenly Father, for all his past benefits, and, especially, for His amazing and glorious works of the past year; to implore a continuance and increase of them, and most especially, of that highest and best of all temporal blessings—Peace and Good Will amongst men; and, finally, that in the true spirit of that cheerful, Christian thankfulness to God, and of good will towards men, which is suitable to an occasion so extraordinary, we shall, for ourselves, strive, henceforth, so to live with our fellow-citizens and our fellow-men, everywhere throughout our now redeemed and reunited land, as to prove ourselves worthy to be the common citizens of such a country, and the common children of such a God.

In Testimony Whereof, *I have hereunto set my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed, at Columbus, on this, the third day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, and in the ninetieth year of the Independence of the United States of America.*

[L. S.]

CHARLES ANDERSON.

By the Governor:

WM. HENRY SMITH, *Secretary of State.*